

5/9/23

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
MASTER OF ARTS ADMISSION TEST 2023

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 100

Attempt all questions

1. Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow:

The virginal, enduring, beautiful today
will a drunken beat of its wing break us
this hard, forgotten lake haunted under frost
by the transparent glacier of unfled flights!

A swan of old remembers it is he
magnificent but who without hope frees himself
for never having sung a place to live
when the boredom of sterile winter was resplendent.

His whole neck will shake off this white death-throe
inflicted by space on the bird denying it,
but not the horror of soil where the feathers are caught.

Phantom assigned to this place by pure brilliance,
he is paralyzed in the cold dream of contempt
put on in useless exile by the Swan.

- a. Is there any noticeable difference between the expectations aroused by the opening line and what unfolds in the rest of the poem? (10)
- b. Examine the symbolic implications of the swan in the poem. (10)
- c. Comment on the form and syntax of the poem. (10)
- d. Explain the phrases: 'unfled flights', 'white death-throe' (5+5)
2. Write an essay on *any one* of the following topics: (40)
- a. Compare mythological motifs and archetypes across different cultures in literature, analyzing how universal myths inform storytelling and cultural understanding.

[Turn over

- b. Analyze a literary work with an unreliable narrator. Explore how the narrator's bias, selective perception, or intentional deception shape the reader's understanding of the story.
- c. Examine how diasporic literature engages with themes of cultural assimilation, identity negotiation, and the complexities of belonging.
- d. Choose a specific literary theory (such as Marxism, Feminism, Structuralism, etc.) and apply it to a literary work of your choice. Discuss how this theoretical lens serves to augment and intensify your comprehension of the chosen textual composition.
- e. Explore how contemporary literature contends with the pervasive impact of social media, technological advancements, and the burgeoning digital epoch upon the intricate tapestry of human relationships and modes of communication.
- f. Choose a literary work that addresses ecological issues and climate change. Analyze how the narrative structure and characters convey the urgency of environmental challenges while exploring human responses to them.

3. Write short notes on *any four taking two* from each sub-group: (4x5=20)

- a. Chiasmus, Aestheticism, Neoclassicism, New Historicism, Beat Generation, Magic Realism, Metafiction
- b. Cassius, Clytemnestra, Charulata, Marianne Dashwood, Leopold Bloom, Willy Loman, Nora Helmer

(10)

(10)

(10)

(3+2)

(40)